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SOURCE : Sueddeutsche ZeitungEXCHANGE OF PERSONS BETWEEN USSR AND CHINA

The following story, signed "J.B.," also appeared in the Linz newspaper Oberoesterreichische Nachrichten on 13 November 1953, but with no signature.

The close relations between the People's Republic of China and Moscow have caused a strange dual migration of persons. More and more Chinese are coming to the Asiatic and European USSR and to the Ukraine; on the other hand, the number of Soviet "advisers" and "technical assistants" in Red China is steadily increasing.

Exact figures on the number of Chinese in the USSR are not available, but it is estimated that in 1952 there were about one million Chinese citizens in various parts of the USSR. Oberoesterreichische Nachrichten gives Western news services as the source of this information. Agreements between Peiping and Moscow have facilitated this exchange of persons in the last 2 years. Chinese workers are employed mainly in the West Siberian coal district, in the Ural region, and in the Donets Basin of the Ukraine. The indigenous workers do not like the unassuming Chinese because they are often used to enforce the official economic policy, or are used by individual state firms to oppose the wishes of the Russian and Ukrainian workers.

In addition to the Chinese workers, there are about 20,000 young Chinese students in the USSR. They are particularly numerous at the Moscow "University for the Peoples of Asia [Eastern Division of Moscow State University?]. Most of them come from western China, where Soviet influence is most strongly felt. Finally, there are a large number of Chinese peddlers who travel around selling various consumer goods. A few of them have traveled all the way through the USSR to Poland and Czechoslovakia.

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The migration of Soviet citizens to China is of a completely different character. These immigrants are not proletarian workers or poor peddlers, but belong to the upper and middle classes of the new Communist society. Their occupations range from foremen, who assemble Soviet machinery in Chinese plants, to high military or diplomatic advisers. There are also such advisers in the finance offices, school administrations, and transportation and communications systems, at the new drainage installations, in mining, in the statistical offices, in radio, and in many other places. Their number is not exactly known either, but diplomatic sources in Peiping, estimate it at at least 80,000.

The presence of the Soviets in China is not liked any better than that of the Chinese in the USSR. It hurts the national pride of the educated Chinese, and the Chinese workers feel that Soviet experts are responsible for the steadily increasing work tempo in the factories. Recently, in Chungking there were protest strikes for these reasons, which even the Red China press had to mention briefly. Such events should not be overestimated as long as China is so dependent upon Soviet aid, but may in the future become very important politically.

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